

ENGINEERING SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ROOM – March 29, 2005  
3:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Hons. Cheek, Chairman; Colclough and Smith, members; Harry James, Attorney; Fred Russell, Administrator; Max Hicks, Utilities Dept. Director; Doug Cheek and Drew Goins, Asst. Utilities Dept. Directors; Teresa Smith, Public Works Director; Michael Green, Public Works Maintenance Director; Mark Johnson, Solid Waste Director; Nancy Morawski, Deputy Clerk of Commission.

ABSENT: Hons. Bob Young, Mayor; Mays, Co-Chairman.

Also Present: Hons. Williams and Grantham, Commissioners.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 36. Consider a request for an easement for pipeline in county right of way at Doug Barnard Parkway for FinnChem USA, Inc.**
- 37. Approve Augusta Utilities Department participation in the Water Environment Research Foundation Biosolids Research Plan at a cost of \$5,000.00 per year for five years with a total cost of \$25,000.00 (Funded from Account 506043110-5212999).**
- 40. Approve the Deed of Dedication and Maintenance Agreement for the water and sanitary sewer mains with applicable easements for Alexander Commons, Phase V.**
- 41. Approve the Deed of Dedication and Maintenance Agreement for the water, sanitary sewer mains and lift station with applicable easements for Wheeler Lake, Phase Two, Section One.**
- 42. Authorize the Augusta Utilities Department to notify perspective firms of the selection results and proceed with negotiations of a contract with the top ranked firm, Parsons Water & Infrastructure Inc. for Construction Manager at Risk Services for the Highland Ave. Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. RFQ # 05-067**
- 43. Approve an Option for Easement between National Welder Supply Company, Inc, as successor by merger with National Realty Sales Corporation, as owner, and Augusta, Georgia, for the following property located at 519 National Avenue for the purchase price of \$237.00: 537 square feet, more or less, of permanent utility and maintenance easement and 952 square feet, more or less, of temporary construction easement.**

44. **Approve funding in the amount of \$1,687,636.12 and award the construction contract to Blair Construction for the construction of the Horsepen Branch Sanitary Sewer 1b phase, Bid #05-064.**
45. **Authorize execution of Lighting Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Windsor Spring Road Phase V Project. The estimated annual cost of \$21,000 per year to cover operations and maintenance will be funded from Street Light Account No. 276-04-1610/53.12310 once the millage rate is adjusted after the project is complete.**
46. **Authorize execution of Lighting Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Windsor Spring Road Phase IV Project. The estimated annual cost of \$25,000 per year to cover operations and maintenance will be funded from Street Light Account No. 276-04-1610/53.12310 once the millage rate is adjusted after the project is complete.**
47. **Approve new position of Assistant Director for Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection – Utilities. (See background information under Item 10 on Administrative Services agenda)**
48. **Approve new positions in Utilities Department and Information Technology. (See background information under Item 11 on Administrative Services agenda)**

**Mr. Colclough: I so move we approve the consent agenda.**

Mr. Smith: Second.

Motion adopted unanimously.

38. **Presentation by Ms. Doris Lehan regarding an exemption from the solid waste fee.**

At this time Ms. Lehan appeared before the committee regarding the above item.

Ms. Lehan: My name is Doris Lehan and I live at 542 Folkstone Circle, Augusta, Ga. I live at Woodbine West and the monthly dues a few years ago included waste pickup. A couple of years ago waste disposal was put on our taxes for \$195.00. I cannot afford to pay this charge and I've come to you to ask for an exemption from this fee.

Mr. Chairman: I guess you're asking for this based on a hardship.

Ms. Lehan: Yes, sir. I live in a patio home there and we pay \$95.00 each month for dues and that includes water and sewerage. The garbage fees used to be in that amount.

Mr. Russell indicated that he would not recommend the waiver of the fee based only on the hardship status.

After further discussion of the situation, Mr. Smith: I move that we accept this as information.

Mr. Colclough: I'll second that.

Motion adopted unanimously.

**39. Presentation of Savannah River at Risk Research Program by Dr. Gene Eidson to aid in request for \$300,000.00 funding from Augusta.**

At this time Dr. Eidson appeared before the committee and outlined the activities involved in this initiative. He noted that the request for \$300,000 in funding was over a period of three years and the first \$100,000 is needed for the first year.

Mr. Colclough: I move that we support the study.

Mr. Smith: Second.

Mr. Hicks: We can probably take it from Renewal and Extension for this year.

Mr. Russell: I would like as part of whatever agreement we enter into that we get a copy of their budget and I would also like to have a regular reporting system for what our dollars go to.

Mr. Colclough: I'll include that as part of the motion.

Motion adopted unanimously.

**49. Discuss the paving of Youngblood Road. (Requested by Commissioner Smith)**

Mr. Smith: When the Commission voted in 2003 to pave Youngblood Drive, the part that goes off of Youngblood Drive, Youngblood Lane, was not added to it for paving. This is really where all the residents are and I wanted to see if we could add that to the paving of Youngblood Drive.

Ms. Smith: That was private property and wasn't part of the project. It consists of several flagpole lots and there are many of those throughout south Augusta.

Mr. Smith: What can we do?

Ms. Chairman: They would have to deed over that property with adequate right-of-ways.

Ms. Smith: Back in 1998 when the dirt roads list was done, there was a part of the motion at that time that we were not going to take any more dirt roads into the system.

Mr. Smith: They have agreed to deed the property over to the county.

Ms. Smith: You would have to overturn the other motion you made to not accept any more dirt roads that do not meet county standards into the system.

Mr. Chairman: We may have other roads in the future where residents want them paved. We would have to have the necessary right-of-way donated and then it would have to be brought to us to determine if the road would be added to the list. Then you would need a funding source. We would need to develop a package to address the procedure and then define a policy.

After further discussion, Mr. Russell: I think your idea of developing a process is the way to go. We can revisit the minutes and determine what we need to do. We can perhaps explore doing a special tax district and I think we should revisit the whole issue.

Ms. Smith: We cannot finish the list we have with the money that has been allocated.

Mr. Chairman: I think we need to turn this over to staff and work on it and come back in thirty days. We can review the old minutes of what was said and why and perhaps develop a list of the property owners, signed letters of donation and explore special tax district applicability. We need a methodology for addressing this type of problem and then this may be one of the roads that we look at first to deal with it.

Mr. Smith: I so move that we turn this over to staff to develop.

Mr. Colclough: Second.

Motion adopted unanimously.

**50. Discuss the Public Works Departments. (Requested by Commissioner Williams)**

Mr. Williams asked for clarification of when the division is effective, what the requirements of the jobs are, who the directors are, and what the additional costs are.

Mr. Chairman: I have asked the Administrator to answer some of those exact questions.

Mr. Russell: We have had some meetings about this. I don't anticipate any additional costs as far as salaries go, and there are some transition issues we have to

discuss. Ms. Smith will be dealing with any reorganization involving the Engineering function and both Waste Management and Maintenance will become separate departments.

Mr. Williams expressed his concern about Ms. Smith providing guidance for the establishment of the new departments if she will not be in charge of those departments.

Mr. Chairman: We're due to have some information back on this in April, I believe.

Mr. Russell: You will have that information back on April 11. Some of this will just involve a change in the reporting relationship of the people who are involved.

After further discussion, Mr. Chairman: Since we will be getting a report back, we need to receive this as information.

Mr. Colclough: I so move.

Mr. Smith: Second.

Motion adopted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy W. Morawski  
Deputy Clerk of Commission

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